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PATENT APP. SER. NO. 10/500,810 ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1715887

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

(Xatsunori Manabe

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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicant brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration of relevant portions thereof by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

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Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees in connection with the filing of this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Schneider Reg. No. 27,383

Date: January 21, 2005 Chapman and Cutler LLP 111 West Monroe Street Chicago, Illinois 60603-4080 (312) 845-3919

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents on the date indicated below.

Brenda Walton
Name of person mailing paper

Signature

Date

-2-

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE **ATTORNEY** SERIAL NO. (Rev. 8-83) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **DOCKET** 10/500,810 No. 1715887 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) Manabe FILING DATE GROUP 07/07/04 3721

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER	DOCUMENT					FILING DATE
INITIAL	NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(TRANSLATION	
EXAMINER	DOCUMENT						
INITIAL	 NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	YES	NO
	2-23969	02/16/90	Japan	B25C	1/00		X
	7-17477	03/28/95	Japan	B25C	1/00	(Abstract)	
	2001-347472	12/18/01	Japan	B25C	5/15	(Abstract)	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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EXAMINER **DATE CONSIDERED**

*EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.